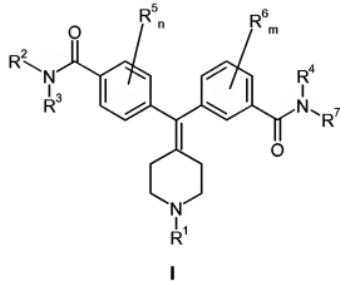


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diasteromers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl or optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1, or 2;

R², R³ and R⁴ R² and R³ are, independently, selected from C₁₋₃alkyl and halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl; hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkylsubstituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, or substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

R⁵ and R⁶ are, independently, selected from R-, NO₂, OR-, Cl-, Br-, I-, F-, CF₃-, C(=O)R-, C(=O)OH, NH₂, SH, NHR, NR₂, SR, SO₃H, SO₂R, S(=O)R, CN-, OH, C(=O)OR-, C(=O)NR₂, NRC(=O)R, and NRC(=O)OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R⁷ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl/C₃₋₆heteroaryl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from C₁₋₃alkyl, and optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo and C₁₋₃alkyl, and optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₆alkyl; or R⁴ and R⁷ together with nitrogen connected thereto form a portion of a C₃₋₆heterocycle C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl ring.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O), C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

R² and R³ are, independently, C₁₋₃alkyl or halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen; and

R⁷ is selected from optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl, C₃₋₆heteroaryl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from C₁₋₃alkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl and C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo and C₁₋₃alkyl, and optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₆alkyl; and

n and m are 0.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O);

R² and R³ are ethyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen; and

R⁷ is C₆₋₁₀aryl or C₆₋₁₀arylC₁₋₃alkyl; and

—n and m are 0.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is hydrogen;

R² and R³ are ethyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen; and

R⁷ is phenyl, benzyl or phenethyl; and

—n and m are 0.

5. (original) A compound selected from:

4-[(3-(anilinocarbonyl)phenyl)(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(3-[(benzylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(3-[(2-phenethyl)amino]carbonyl)phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (cancelled)

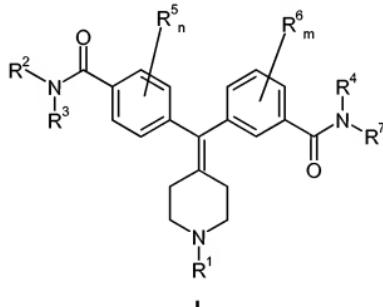
7. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

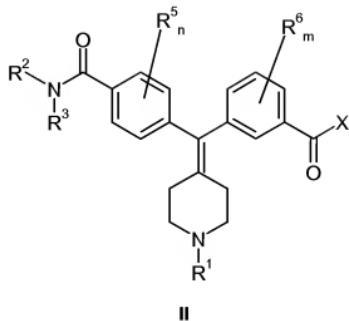
9. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



reacting a compound of formula II with HNR⁴R⁷:



wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl or optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2;

X is selected from -OH, -OR⁸, -O-C(=O)-R⁸, -Cl, -Br and -I, wherein R⁸ is C₁₋₆alkyl;

R², R⁴ and R⁶ are, independently, selected from C₁₋₃alkyl and halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl; hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁶ and R⁸ are, independently, selected from R, NO₂, OR, Cl, Br, I, F, CF₃, C(=O)R, C(=O)OH, NH₂, SH, NHR, NR₂, SR, SO₃H, SO₂R, S(=O)R, CN, OH, C(=O)OR, C(=O)NR₂, NRC(=O)R, and NRC(=O)OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R⁷ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and substituted C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl C₃₋₆heteroaryl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from C₁₋₃alkyl, and optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₆alkyl C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo and C₁₋₃alkyl, and optionally substituted C₃₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₆alkyl; or R⁴ and R⁷ together with nitrogen connected thereto form a portion of a C₃₋₆heterocycle C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl ring.

12. (original) A process as claimed in claim 11,

wherein X is -OH;

R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-;

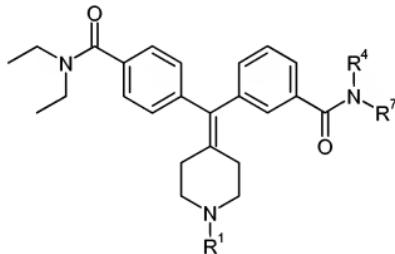
R² and R³ are ethyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;

R⁷ is phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-chlorobenzyl, 2-fluorobenzyl, 1-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl, 4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl, 2,6-dimethylpyridin-3-yl, isobutyl, or 1-ethylpropyl; or R⁴ and R⁷ together form 1,5-pentylene or 1,4-butylene; and

n and m are 0.

13. (currently amended) A compound of formula IA, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers thereof, enantiomers thereof, or mixtures thereof:



wherein

R¹ is selected from hydrogen, and C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(=O)-;

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen, or C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl,

wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁷ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl, and C₃₋₆heteroaryl, and C₄₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₃alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃alkyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₆₋₁₀aryl-C₁₋₃alkyl, and C₃₋₆heteroaryl, and C₄₋₆heteroaryl-C₁₋₃alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and C₁₋₃alkyl-CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH,

~~NH₂, SH, NHR, NR₂, SR, SO₂H, SO₂R, S(=O)R, CN, OH, C(=O)OR, C(=O)NR₂,~~
~~-NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; or R⁴ and~~
~~R⁷ together with nitrogen connected thereto form a portion of a C₃₋₆heterocycle C₃₋~~
~~heterocycloalkyl ring.~~

14. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 13, wherein

R¹ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen and or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R⁷ is selected from C₃₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₃alkyl, phenyl, phenyl-C₁₋₃alkyl, and C₃₋₆heteroaryl, wherein said R⁷ is further optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo, and C₁₋₃alkyl.

15. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 13, wherein

R¹ is hydrogen;

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen and or methyl; and

R⁷ is selected from C₄₋₆alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, 2-phenylethyl, 1-phenylethyl, cyclopentyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl and cyclohexyl, wherein R⁷ is further optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy, chloro, and fluoro.

16. (cancelled)

17. (original) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R¹ is hydrogen; and R⁴ and R⁷ are directly linked to form 1,5-pentylene or 1,4-butylene.

18. (currently amended) A compound selected from:

COMPOUND 1: 4-[[3-(anilinocarbonyl)phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 2: 4-[[3-[(benzylamino)carbonyl]phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 3: 4-[(3-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]carbonyl)phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 4: 4-[{3-[(cyclopentylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 5: 4-[{3-[(cyclohexylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]benzoic acid -N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 6: 4-[[3-(cyclohexylacetyl)phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 7: 4-[{3-{[(2-chlorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 8: 4-[{3-{[(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 9: 4-[[3-{{(1*R*)-1-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl}amino}carbonyl]phenyl](piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 10: 4-[{3-{[(4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 11: 4-[{3-{[(2,6-dimethylpyridin-3-yl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 12: 4-[{3-[(isobutylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 13: 4-[{3-{[(1-ethylpropyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 14: 4-[{3-{[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

COMPOUND 15: N,N-diethyl-4-[{3-(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyl]benzamide;

COMPOUND 16: N,N-diethyl-4-{piperidin-4-ylidene[3-(pyrrolidin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]methyl}benzamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.